discontinue which has a great tourist attraction?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) Improvement of tourist facilities is primarily the responsibility of the State Government/UT. However, Central Government provides financial assistance to State Governments/UTs based on specific proposals, their merits, inter-se priorities and subject to availability of funds. The following projects have been sanctioned during 1993-94 for the Union Territory of Andaman and Nicobar islands :—

(1) Tourist Complex at Diglipur : Rs. 26.62 lakhs
(2) Tourist Complex at Rangat : Rs. 26.85 lakhs

(b) Due to Pilot srike effective December 1992, the once weekly Boeing 737 service operating on Calcutta-Port Blair-Nicobar and return routes was withdrawn.

Improvement of tourist facilities in Goa

385. SHRI VIRENDRA KATARIA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) what are the details of steps taken to improve the tourist facilities in Goa;

(b) whether it is a fact that ship service from Bombay and othtr places to Goa has been stopped for the last two years adversely effecting the tourism in Goa; and

(c) if so, the reason therefor as ship service gives a big boost to tourism industry of Goa?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) Improvement of tourist facilities is primarily the responsibility of the State Government. However, Central Government provides financial assistance to State Governments based on specific proposals, their merits, inter-se priorities and subject to availability of funds. A list of projects sanctioned during 1993-94 is given in the enclosed Statement. [*See* below).

(b) and (c) Efforts to start services through State Governments not having succeeded, sanction has been given to private operators for introducing passenger service by ship between Bombay and Goa. This will help in boosting tourism.

Statement

Projects/Schemes prioritised during 1993-94

(Rs. in lakhs)

Sl. No.	Name of the project	Amount sanctioned	Amount released	Status/likely date of completion
1	2	3	4	5
	GOA			
	UNDER NORMAL FUNDING			
1	*Wayside facilities at Dodamarg	12.80	6.40	March '95
2	Tourist complex at Kavaem	18.00	9.00	-do-
3	*Public conveniences at Panaji and Calanguto Beach	8.78	2.50	Dec. '94

1	2	3	4	5
4	Tented accommodation at NIWS . .	13.84	7.00	Dec., '94
5	Purchase of two Hover crafts for Pangi Park Recreation Centre	12.44	6.22	Sept. '94
6	Food & Cultural Festival . . .	3.75	2.00	Completed
7	Goa Carnival	4.25	2.00	-do-
8	Shigmo festival	4.25	2.00	-do-
9	Publicity support	0.71	0.71	-do-
	TOTAL	78.82	37.83	

* In lieu of Polem and Manguishi projects.

Tourism Co-operation with Russia

386. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether any tourism Co-operation agreement has recently been signed with Russia; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) Yes, Sir, An agreement on cooperation in the field of tourism was signed in Moscow on 30th June, 1994 between the Govt. of India and the Govt. of Russian Federation.

(b) The salient features of the agreement are as follows :-

(i) Both the Parties will strengthen and encourage the development and cooperation in the field of tourism on the basis of equality and mutual benefit.

(ii) Both the Parties shall strive to simplify immigration, customs and other formalities in order to facilitate tourism exchange.

(iii) Both the Parties shall strive to facilitate and expedite the issue of visas for up to 3 months to citizens of the other Party.

(iv) Both the Parties shall facilitate the import and export of material and documents for publicity on tourism, free from customs duties.

(v) Both the Parties shall encourage the exchange of statistics in the field of tourism.

(vi) Both the Parties shall assist each other in training of professional staff in the field of tourism.

(vii) Both the Parties may open an official tourism representation in the territory of the other Party.

Withdrawal of Restricted Area Permit from North-Eastern Region

387. SHRI DAVID LEDGER: Will the Minister of CVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the Restricted Area Permit (RAP) is the greatest impediment to the growth of the Tourism in the North-Eastern region;

(b) if so, whether Government would consider its withdrawal; and